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## DG News Update: Special Issue Vol. 4

*This is the fourth of a series of special DG News Updates marking the 10 years of the DGP-Net (1998-2008). We wish you a Happy New Year 2009 and look forward to supporting the members of the Democratic Governance Community of Practice (DG CoP).*

**2009 - Issue No.62**

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### Feature Topic

#### [DGP-Net: 2008 In Retrospect](#)



[08/01/09] Throughout 2008, DGP-Net celebrated 10 years of the Democratic Governance Practice Network and passed quite a few milestones. With the constant support and active collaboration of our members, we strengthened our existing knowledge and policy support services, introduced new knowledge products, and, tried to break new grounds often in a period of transition. We are glad to learn that the DGP-Net also inspired other networks to introduce similar new products and services in their respective areas. With your support, we will continue to collaborate with our partner networks in replicating good practices and sharing lessons learned. We are humbled to share with you a few of the milestones that marked the 10th year of

Knowledge Sharing in the Democratic Governance Community of Practice. [more...](#)



#### [Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi joins the UNDP DG CoP](#)

[07/01/09] On January 2 2009, Ms. Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi (South Africa) joined the UNDP Bureau for Development Policy as the Director of the Democratic Governance Group. On behalf of the members of the Democratic Governance Community of Practice and the DGP-Net, we welcome her as a network member. Geraldine brings over 14 years of service to her government in various positions, most recently as Minister for Public Service and Administration and Member of the South African Parliament. She has also served in a number of leadership roles within Parliament, including as Chairperson of the Sub-Committee on Rules of the National Assembly of the Parliament of South

Africa. [more...](#)

#### [Bangladesh Elections hailed as Transparent and Credible](#)



[06/01/09] Bangladesh's ninth parliamentary election was peaceful and orderly, and is being hailed as the country's most credible and transparent election ever. With 87 percent turnout, voters stood in long lines to cast their vote in the landmark election, returning democracy to Bangladesh after two years of emergency rule. [more...](#)

#### [Georgian](#)

[05/01/09] supported the young people communication



#### [Parliament Engages the Youth](#)

[Contributed with thanks by Sophie Tchitchinadze, Georgia]. UNDP Georgia has Georgia Parliament in launching a website for the youth. The website will help learn more about the Parliament and the way it works. It will improve between the Parliament and the youth and will encourage young people to get involved in the Parliament's activities. Along with the historic notes on parliamentarianism and democratic constitutions, the website will accommodate educational games to make learning user-friendly and enjoyable. [more...](#)

## Practice News

### **DGP-Net: Cultivating a Spirit of Peer Assistance and Problem-Solving - Kemal Dervis**



[06/01/09] In this message, Kemal Dervis, UNDP Administrator, reaffirms the role of the DGP-Net – along with UNDP's other knowledge networks - in helping UNDP overcome barriers to sharing knowledge, experience and ideas. In his words, "the DGP-Net ... helped cultivate a spirit of peer assistance and problem-solving" [more...](#)



### **DGP-Net: Leading with Knowledge and Example - Olav Kjørven**

[05/01/09] In the past 10 years (1998-2008), the DGP-Net has responded to thousands of queries and requests for assistance from the COs, Regional Centers, Sub-Regional Resource Facilities and partner agencies. Such substantive and operational support came in the form of Consolidated Replies, News Updates, DG Insights, Case Studies, Lessons Learned, and Collection of Good and, 'Not so Good' practices. The frequent ranking of the DGP-Net as top UNDP practice network in 'UNDP HQ Products and Services Survey' amply testifies to this. The DGP-Net contributed fundamentally to the gradual UNDP organizational culture change from hierarchy driven vertical knowledge sharing to community driven horizontal knowledge sharing. [more...](#)

### **UNDP Memorandum of Understanding with UNODC**



[04/01/09] [Contributed with thanks by Sarah Renner, New York]. The signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between UNDP and UNODC solidifies the organizations' partnership at the global, regional and country levels in the provision of technical assistance for anti-corruption initiatives and the implementation of the UNCAC. This timely agreement represents an important opportunity for expanding efforts to fight poverty and combat corruption. The MOU will help UNDP and UNODC collaborate on anti-corruption and criminal justice reform focusing on improving the consistency, coherence and quality of technical assistance in these areas and on avoiding duplicate programming. [more...](#)

### **Supporting UNCAC Implementation in Asia Pacific**



[01/01/09] [Contributed with thanks by Samuel De Jaegere, Bangkok]. The consequences of corruption are far reaching and particularly devastating for the poor. From 13-15 October 2008, anti-corruption practitioners and policy-makers from 18 countries in Asia and the Pacific region came together to discuss implementation of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC). Adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2003, UNCAC came into force on 14 December 2005 and has already been ratified by over 125 countries. Participants at the Technical Training discussed the practical challenges of implementing UNCAC and shared experiences on anti-corruption initiatives; establishing institutions and cultures to promote accountability; strengthening oversight mechanisms; reforming the public sector; and government-NGO initiatives to tackle corruption. The report of the three-day Technical Training -organized by the Bangkok Regional Center - covers the challenges discussed as well as country experiences in addressing these challenges and moving forward in the fight against corruption. [more...](#)



### **DGP-Net Lessons Learned Series: Strengthening Community of Practice - A Strategic Agenda for Action**

[20/12/08] The value of Communities of Practice (CoPs) should be measured by their usefulness to practitioners and their ultimate development impact. Following a wide range of online and offline consultations, the present guidance note attempts to identify some of the lessons learned and good practices to strengthen the CoP processes and functioning. While highlighting different ways communities could impact individuals and organizations (e.g. increasing learning and knowledge sharing or motivation and commitment for members), several factors in the Guidance Note

also focus on one of the dimensions of individual and organizational impact: increased performance. [more...](#)

### **DG Insights Live!**

[18/12/08] DG Insights is an online publication for the Democratic Governance Community of Practice (CoP) that highlights emerging trends and substantive issues UNDP/UN practitioners and the larger research community are grappling with and promotes deeper understanding on democracy and democratic governance. Past DG Insights issues have addressed Local governance experience with the Panchayati Raj in India; Prevention of vote buying in Mexico, the linkages between knowledge poverty and freedom of information; social accountability and democratic governance; Democratization challenges in the Arab States and the Zambian experience with the implementation of the Paris Declaration.

Network members with pertinent experiences and/or thematic expertise on specific governance issues are invited to submit comments and read other DG Insights products on our DG Insights Live! wiki or by sending an email to [dgp-net@groups.undp.org](mailto:dgp-net@groups.undp.org). [more...](#)

## **Network Happenings**

### **Latest Consolidated Replies**



[25/12/08] Consolidated Reply: Kosovo/ NHDR and perceptions on civil society; Consolidated Reply: Uzbekistan/ Comparative Experiences/ Drafting a Law for Youth Policy; Revised Consolidated Reply: Afghanistan / Comparative Experiences / Establishing Anti-Corruption Bodies; E-Consultation Reference Note: Gender in Anti Corruption Strategies; Consolidated Reply: The Gambia/Comparative Experiences/ Supporting Capacity Development of Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Missions; [more...](#)

### **Open Queries**

[20/12/08] To contribute to any of these open queries, or submit a new one, please send an email to [dgp-net@groups.undp.org](mailto:dgp-net@groups.undp.org). [more...](#)

### **DGP-Net Scrapbook: 10 Years of Knowledge Sharing**



[15/12/08] The Democratic Governance Practice Network (DGP-Net) celebrates 10 years of knowledge-sharing across UNDP. The network originated in 1998 as a mailing group of governance practitioners across the globe who, of their own accord, shared lessons and advice, demonstrating that colleagues in Peru had something to share with colleagues in Benin and Bangladesh. 10 years later, the DGP-Net has responded to thousands of queries and requests for assistance from the COs, Regional Centers, SURFs and partner agencies. The DGP-Net and other UNDP knowledge networks contributed fundamentally to the gradual change of UNDP organizational culture from hierarchy driven vertical knowledge sharing to community driven horizontal knowledge sharing. As part this "10 years of knowledge sharing" celebration, we invite you to view other members' experience with the network and to share your comments, stories, and critiques on this long journey with the Democratic Governance Community of Practice on our wiki-scrapbook. We encourage you to send comments, memories; and stories with pictures to DGP-Net at [dgp-net@groups.undp.org](mailto:dgp-net@groups.undp.org); or post them on Wiki! [more...](#)

## **Announcements**

### **The South-South Human Development Stock Exchange (SS-HDSX)**



[19/12/08] Emphasizing the role of South-South cooperation in meeting development and economic challenges, UNDP Administrator Kemal Dervis said, "Within the global economic context, building stronger North-South, and especially South-South, partnerships will be important to leverage the potential of the South to respond to the economic crisis." To that end, the UNDP Special Unit for South-South Cooperation has launched the South-South Human Development Stock Exchange (SS-HDSX) on 16 December 2008. The "social stock exchange" SS-HDSX will act as an online marketplace where social investors could go online to find information about different projects in need of funding. In a world with so many different organizations and projects in need of funding, such a mechanism would be a vital tool to help screen civil society organizations before allowing them to post their projects, and provide accountability and transparency for interested social investors. Since it opened, the São Paulo social stock exchange has received more than \$5.5 million online pledges to 71 philanthropic organizations and is now expanding to environmental projects. [more...](#)

## Events

### **CoP Meeting: e-Governance and Access to Information - Hyderabad, India, 14-16 January 2009**

[26/12/08] [Contributed with thanks by Pauline Cadeac, New York]. On the backdrop of the global internet forum, the second e-Governance and Access to Information Community of Practice (CoP) meeting will be held in Hyderabad, India from 14-16 January 2009. It brings together over 45 practitioners from all regions and will address the consolidation of the e-Governance Community of Practice; and a stock taking of the past five years of experiences in the field. The meeting will also provide participants with strategic guidance on how to design and implement e-Governance policies and programmes that improve the effectiveness of public service and information delivery, increase stakeholder involvement in decision-making processes and the accountability and transparency of government processes at the national, regional and local levels. [more...](#)

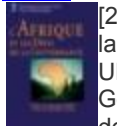
## Resources

### **Accountability in Action: 2008 Global Accountability Report - One World Trust**



[30/12/08] The results of this year's Global Accountability assessment reveal overall accountability capabilities scores around the 70% mark, indicating that the organisations assessed have accountability policies and systems in place that meet only some good practice principles. This year's Report also reflects on what the data from 2006 and 2007 and 2008 indicates about the state of accountability. The findings offer broad insights into common scoring patterns across the four dimensions of accountability, sector strengths and weaknesses, and gaps in accountability in global governance. [more...](#)

### **Les Enjeux de Gouvernance en Somalie: Priorités de Gouvernance Locale et Décentralisation (French) - UNDP**



[29/12/08] [Contributed with thanks by Luigi Tessori; Dakar] This new publication "L'Afrique et les Défis de la Gouvernance" addresses the intricacies of governance on the African continent. It includes a chapter by UNDP adviser Luigi Tessori and Dr. Abdirizak Osman Hassan, Former Minister in the Transitional Government of Somalia; that addresses governance challenges with respect to local governance and decentralization in Somalia. [more...](#)



### **Peace Building and Reconstruction - 2008 Congo (DR) NHDR**

[28/12/08] [Contributed with thanks by Dominique Kabeya, Congo (DR)]. The 2008 National Human Development Report for the Democratic Republic of Congo was prepared by a team of experts from the University of Kinshasa with the support of UNDP Congo (DR). The report argues that the absence of peace and lack of security constitute major hurdles to sustainable human development in DRC. Thus, it is an imperative to restore peace and security. The country must also reverse the tendencies which explain and prolong the state's weakness. The report proposes an approach that is based on six pillars: peace building; restoration of the state authority throughout the national territory; fairness in administering justice and national reconciliation; recasting the economic production mode; the promotion of good governance and participation; and culture of moral and ethical values. [more...](#)



### **The Millennium Development Goals Report 2008**

[18/12/08] The eight MDGs have been adopted by the international community as a framework for development activities in over 190 countries in ten regions; they have been articulated into over 20 targets and over 60 indicators. This Report summarizes progress towards the goals in each of the regions. However, any such synthesis inevitably masks the range and variety of development experiences in individual countries since the goals were adopted. [more...](#)

The North-South Institute

### **The Currency Transaction Tax: A Bold Idea for Financing Development - NSI**



[17/12/08] This North South Institute (NSI) Briefing explores the idea of a small tax to be collected at the global level on foreign exchange transactions; and used to finance development projects for the global public good. This is not a novel idea but after years of viewing globalization as a panacea for under development, it may now be time to consider new financing mechanisms that are grounded in solidarity to address global problems. [more...](#)

### **2009 EFA Report - Overcoming Inequality: Why Governance Matters - UNESCO**

[16/12/08] The 2009 "Education For All" (EFA) report argues that while there has been some remarkable progress towards some of the EFA goals since 2000, progress is being undermined by a failure of governments to tackle persistent inequalities based on income, gender, location, ethnicity, language, disability and other markers for disadvantage. Delivering on EFA will require strong political leadership, a sense of urgency and practical strategies. The final chapter of this Report sets out some of the key priorities and stresses that unless governments act to reduce disparities through effective policy reforms, the EFA promise will be broken. [more...](#)

### **New Book: Broadcasting, Voice, and Accountability - World Bank**



[14/12/08] [Contributed with thanks by Lenni Montiel, New York]. This book provides guidelines, tools, and real world examples to help assess and reform the enabling environment for media development that serves public interest goals. It builds on a growing awareness of the role of media and voice in the promotion of transparent and accountable governance, in the empowerment of people to better exercise their rights and hold leaders to account; and in support of equitable development including improved livelihoods, health, and access to education. The book provides development practitioners with an overview of key policy and regulatory issues involved in supporting freedom of information and expression and enabling independent public service media. Country examples are provided to illustrate how these norms have been institutionalized in various contexts. [more...](#)

## **Job Vacancies**

### **DG Vacancies and Consultancies**

[26/12/08] To view the latest Vacancy and Consultancy announcements, please see [more...](#)

